

DAN ROLING: Thank you. My name is Dan Roling, and I would just like to make a few comments. I'll start by saying through the introduction, especially with Mitch's comments, it sounds more like this is an inquiry into public view on environment and social issues than on the Bureau of Land Management's need to collect royalties and economic value for resources owned by the American public. For the record, I would just like to say that there is more -- appears to be more focus on environmental issues here than on economic issues. My belief, as we look around the industry today, is that there is no flexibility from the federal government, the Bureau of Land Management, to adjust royalties to help the coal industries. More than one speaker today has already said about the number of coal companies going bankrupt. Costs are too high. The royalties are way over market. If you look at the royalties today, it's about almost forty percent of every dollar that the coal companies collect on public lands go to the government in one form or another, state, federal, and local. That's a very high royalty. No business could stay in business with those kinds of rates. As far as the other comments we have heard is regarding green energy. I would make the comment there is more economic subsidies from the federal government for green energy than there is for coal. I happen to be in both, so I can speak with some authority. I can get production tax credits. I can get renewable energy tax credits. And the list goes on and on and on. I got none of those in the coal space. So, the misinformation being put out here today by some speakers is appalling. The fallacy regarding the environment also is appalling. But that is not what this is about. I would just sum this up by saying the royalty rates are way too high. They are not flexible. They don't reflect real current economic conditions. The inability of the coal companies to producing coal relative to the market is governed by regulations instead of by demand. And I think that the federal government should become a lot more flexible on allowing coal companies to produce coal when it is needed by the market at a price that is respective of the market, and the royalties should be reduced. Thank you.